

Making Waves.

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF
THE SURFRIDER FOUNDATION

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IDE CHART

TRACKING THE EBB AND FLOW OF COASTAL ENVIRONMENTALISM



Many of the top-rated restaurants in the states serve fish that are as endangered as the Giant Panda.

Stan is now living peacefully at an aquarium in Newquay, Cornwall.



Remember the most important thing to wear when going to the beach is sunscreen!

Top Restaurants Serve Fish as Endangered as Giant Panda

LOW

The team that brought you the documentary "The End of Line," a film that examines the problems of overfishing our oceans, has now turned its attention to what people put on their dinner plate. Charles Clover and his team have developed a guide called fish2fork.com that surveys more than 100 top restaurants to show which are still serving endangered fish. Unfortunately, nearly 9 out of 10 restaurants were serving at least one 'fish to avoid' from over-exploited stocks, and some of the most critically acclaimed eateries were among the worst offenders: 7 out of 25 Michelin-starred restaurants visited served species officially listed as endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List.

Stan the Superstar

HIGH

A unique starfish now referred to as Stan, was found off the coast of Cornwall, England recently and he had not the usual five, but eight limbs. Although starfish do have a remarkable ability to regenerate lost arms, sometimes growing two where there was one, evidence suggests that Stan was indeed born this way. Like conjoined twins, he could be the product of a single egg and sperm which failed to separate properly early in the process of development. Researchers believe this must be the case because Stan boasts not one disc but two fused together in a figure-of-eight shape.

Tan Lines Mandatory

NEITHER HIGH NOR LOW

The California Supreme Court recently ruled to allow state parks officers to enforce a ban on nudity at state beaches, even ones that have been informally designated as "clothing optional." The Court's action revoked an existing 1979 policy, which stated that officers should wait until someone complained before enforcing regulations that forbid public nudity at state parks and beaches. Under said policy, officers who received a complaint would first warn the beachgoer to please put on a swimsuit or leave for the day.

*Since Surfrider Foundation's focus is on beach access, not beach attire or lack thereof. We are merely reporting on this recent ruling.

Making Waves

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches, for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education.

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122 victories since 1/06. The Surfrider Foundation is striving to win 150 environmental campaigns by 2010. For a list of these victories please go to: www.surfrider.org/whoweare6.asp

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On the cover: Future big-wave charger celebrates International Surfing Day in Sweden. Photograph by Per-Erik Bylund

THE MORE YOU KNOW THE GREATER IMPACT YOUR ACTIONS CAN HAVE

Yvon Chouinard said “*The more you know the less you need.*” I love the simplicity in that statement. The statement itself is minimalistic, it has a stickiness/hook to it and I think of it when I feel myself slipping into consumer mode... yet look at us.

Look at how we approach surfing... we know virtually everything about swells and coastal conditions.

I woke up this morning and before a foot even hit the ground I knew every real time, relevant detail regarding the swell that’s hitting Southern California. I knew the swell direction was coming in at 197 degrees (telling me where to go), the waves were averaging 4-5ft at 18 seconds (telling me what board to take), the tide was negative but rising nicely, the wind was 1 mph at 335 degrees, air and water at 70 degrees (telling me no wetsuit)... oh and I had streaming video.

So, I got out of bed.

I should probably mention that to gain access to that plethora of intelligence I didn’t open my Mac. I hit one button on my phone and then tilted it. Nutty.

Like most people that surf with some regularity, I fully understand the argument against innovation. Specifically the argument on the bumper sticker that says, “Leashes and forecasting ruined surfing” (for those that aren’t frequent surfers, the sticker suggests that those two things opened up the sport to... anyone and everyone). But the real truth is that those two things didn’t do anything to the waves except let others in on the joy of riding them. What we’re really suggesting with statements like those is that surfing is a limited-resource activity and that as long as we’re a part of the group that gets access to that limited resource... we’re all for anything that limits access by others. Sure, I detest crowded waves as much as anyone. I hate being dropped in on, etc. But I’m guessing that while many of us surf without leashes some percent of the time... how many of us totally disregard all forms of forecasting?

Here’s my point. Let’s all stop the whining about the past and look forward. Instead of looking backward, let’s look forward as there is a whole lot at risk and this era of large-scale environmental damage is high stakes. We need all hands on deck.

We can’t turn back the clock of time. No, I’m not suggesting we embrace globalism. I’m simply suggesting this... use the tools that exist to maximize what you’re seeking to accomplish what you want to with your life.

I dig that I can have that much info regarding swells. I love that I can text with my family from across the globe. And I love that emerging tools can be pointed and powered directly at our mission.

We know so much. We know when and where a swell will hit. But we also know that single-use plastic is changing our ocean’s composition. We act on the former, what about the latter?

We know the water temp to tell us to leave the wetsuit at home... but we also know that sea-level rise is real and is impacting coastlines all over the world. Why does the former warrant more action than the latter?

I love the age-old (Mies van der Rohe) “less is more” inspiration behind Yvon’s quote. It cuts to the heart of consumerism. Yet I think derivatives of this suggest a more holistic look at life... something like “the more you know the greater impact your actions can have.” Of course, that impact can be positive or negative... but your actions will undoubtedly make an impact.

Two points there. First, you know a ton. Second, act. **Join us.** Come to a Chapter meeting. Subscribe to a blog on wave energy. Invest a few minutes to really understand marine protected areas.

The more you know, the greater impact your actions can have.

Go.

—Jim Moriarty,
Chief Executive Officer

INTERNATIONAL SURFING DAY 2009

By Laura Mazzarella

On June 20, 2009, surfers and ocean lovers around the world united, and gave back in celebration of the fifth annual International Surfing Day (ISD). Founded by *Surfing Magazine* and the Surfrider Foundation, ISD invites surfers and coastal enthusiasts everywhere to celebrate the sport of surfing and help raise awareness about issues affecting our oceans, waves and beaches.

Surfrider Foundation Chapters and other friends celebrated this unofficial Surfers Holiday by hosting a beach-themed event including beach, river and lake cleanups and dune restoration events, to paddle outs, surf sessions, beach games, live music, BBQ's, stand up paddle boarding, body surfing, yoga, surf film premieres, storm drain stenciling and the list goes on!

Thanks to over 105 locations worldwide, this year's ISD events were truly unique and special.

"What started from about 20 participating locations in 2005, ISD has grown over five times in size," states Surfrider Foundation's Matt McClain. "It just goes to show that no matter where a person lives, ISD provides the perfect excuse to get out, enjoy the day and give back to our oceans, waves and beaches that give so much to us."

Thanks to our amazing supporters from all parts of the world, participants were able to

join festivities in the United States, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mauritius, Peru, Mexico, France, French Antilles, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, West Africa, Sweden, Taiwan, West Africa, the United Kingdom, Europe and the U.S. Virgin Islands. While celebrating, tens of thousands of volunteers and activists helped remove over 6,000 pounds of trash from our coastlines, collected 1,000 signatures for campaign support and signed up over 1,450 Surfrider Foundation members in one day!

In addition to over 100 coastal events taking place worldwide, various International Surfing Day sponsors once again hosted signature "challenges," that allow the public to compete for prizes through various activities onsite and online for participants that might be landlocked or unable to make it out.

"We were excited to once again offer friendly challenges and cool prizes as a fun, small way to thank everyone's efforts during the big day," said *Surfing Magazine's* Tristin Akohoshi. Participants competed in sponsored challenges like Best Trash Sculpture, Most Surf Spots Surfied on ISD, Most Unique Piece of Trash and more."

From surfboard demos and bocci ball in Tamarindo, Costa Rica to children's surf clinics in South Texas and South Jersey, to a live concert in Palm Beach County, FL, ISD continues to be an event to remember.

To view more pictures and stories of ISD happenings across the globe, including this year's "Challenge" winners, please visit: www.intlsurfingday.com. Huge thanks to the amazing participants that helped make this event truly global and a complete success!

The Surfrider Foundation and Surfing Magazine would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to this year's International Surfing Day partners without whose assistance this event would not be possible: Monster Energy Drink, Earthpack, EarthPositive Clothing, The Sign Shop, as well as "Signature Challenge" sponsors Electric, Ocean Minded, Matix, DVS, O'Neill, Reef, Sector Nine, Globe, Vans, Volcom, Body Glove, Patagonia, Billabong, Quiksilver, Rip Curl, Ecousable, Western Federal Credit Union and DaKine.

Laura Mazzarella is Surfrider Foundation's Marketing Manager.



LISA SPANGLER

North Country Board Riders in conjunction with Matariki Muriwhenua and local Iwi [tribe] organized a surf session, beach cleanup and restoration event around Tauroa Point which is in Far North of New Zealand. This group lends a hand as part of the "pitchfork" seaweed team collecting seaweed to help naturally fertilize and maintain the health of the Pohutukawa trees that surfers planted previously to help protect the beach naturally.



JEN STEVENS

Volunteers with Australia's Margaret River Surfrider Chapter gathered in daunting weather for a beach cleanup and dune rehabilitation event. Afterwards, volunteers enjoyed prizes, t-shirts and "hot soup and buns for all."



KENIN GRIGGS

Atlanta Georgia Chapter volunteers hit the river in kayaks, canoes and paddle boards to provide some much needed TLC to the Chattahoochee River and surrounding parks. Cleaning up more than 1000 pounds of litter, the most frequently picked up item was plastic water bottles. The Chapter is working to educate the local community about reducing single use plastics through their Rise Above Plastics program.



THORNTON COHEN

Tamarindo, Costa Rica drew in over 300 people for an afternoon of live music on the beach courtesy of the Leatherbacks, surfboard demos, a "Junior Jam" expression session, volleyball, bocce ball, food and free giveaways.



KRISTY HALKES

Rain didn't stop the South Jersey Chapter from catching some waves during their children's surf clinic in conjunction with Big Brothers / Big Sisters. Volunteers not only introduced and taught over 15 kids to surf, they also inspired 15 new stewards for our coastal environments.



PAULA PUJAN

Our friends in Ensenada, Mexico stepped it up this year hosting a free yoga lesson in addition to a paddle out, art expo, education booth, live drums and African dance show, beach cleanup, raffle, and they even had a petition signing requesting authorities to check on water quality issues! Talk about bigger and better. With ten new members and over 60 attendees, the event was a complete success.



ROBERT ZELKOVSKY

Winner, winner, winner! Kauai Chapter takes advantage of ISD's signature onsite challenges. These stoked kids won the Sector 9 Short Bus Chronicles DVD for their beach cleanup efforts, filling the trash bag to the top. Well deserved!



KRISTINA SCHLEGEL

Central Texas Chapter steps it up a notch sifting recyclables from trash collected in Austin, Texas' Lady Bird Lake. 30 volunteers helped collect one bag of aluminum cans and five totes of recyclable plastics.



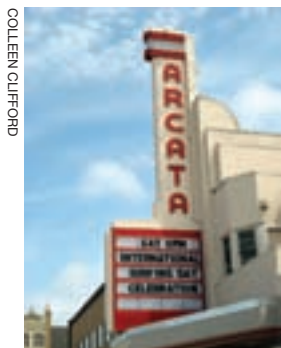
JOEL CORDERO

Surfrider Foundation Puerto Rico celebrated the day with a beach cleanup at Tres Palmas Marine Reserve with stand-up paddle boarding, snorkel sessions and pot luck lunch on Steps Beach. In addition to finding tires, 10 bags of trash were collected.



MARISSA WALCH

The Huntington Beach/Seal Beach Chapter was treated to some musical stylings courtesy of the River's End Café in Seal Beach.



COLLEEN CLIFFORD

The Humboldt Chapter wrapped up the day's events throwing a super successful bash at the Arcata Theatre Lounge for ISD.



JERRY YEE

All aboard! Taiwan practiced the art of sharing on this super-sized party wave for ISD.



GRAEME THICKINS

You don't necessarily need waves to celebrate ISD. Stand-up paddle boarding was the name of the game for our Minnesota Chapter.

OFFSHORE WIND POWER —IS IT THE ANSWER?

Jody Kennedy, John Weber & Stefanie Sekich

Public perception of offshore wind energy has been strongly influenced by Cape Wind's project in Nantucket Sound. The first large offshore wind farm proposed in the U.S. hit national press clouded in controversy. Local property owners with powerful political allies feared potential impacts to fishing, wildlife and the local tourism economy. That was in 2001. Now, signs are indicating that the perspective on the Nantucket project and on offshore wind power projects in general could be turning around in the U.S.

One area where this appears to be true is the Bluewater Wind Park project in Delaware, proposed in 2006. In 2008, the New York Times Magazine reported on this project. In this small New England State with high coastal resource values, 91 percent of the residents supported offshore wind power and would even pay extra for its energy according to a study by the University of Delaware (Wind Power Politics, Sept 14th).

Other recent events also signal a change in public opinion on offshore wind. In May, the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board unanimously approved the Cape Wind project for 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound. The Obama Administration issued the first federal offshore wind leases in New Jersey and Delaware. Exploratory only, they allow for the construction of turbines in federal waters from 6 to 18 miles offshore to collect information that will help inform possible full-scale projects. In addition, the State of Massachusetts released a ground breaking draft plan to carve state marine waters into areas where human activities, including offshore wind energy, should and should not occur when factoring in conflicting uses and sensitive areas for marine species and habitats (www.masscoceanaction.org).

So what is driving this shift in thinking? During the years since the Cape Wind project seemed drowned in controversy, much has changed to advance offshore wind power. Other counties have demonstrated successful projects, environmental

studies have addressed issues such as impacts to migratory birds, and the U.S. has developed a growing interest in alternatives to fossil fuels. State governments are also driving this shift with mandates to produce a percentage of their power needs from clean energy sources. Does this mean that we are going to see wind turbines across every coastal horizon? So far, this seems unlikely.

The Potential

In Europe, wind turbines have decorated ocean horizons for over a decade. The UK is the current world leader in offshore wind generation and after conducting a strategic environmental assessment, the British government feels there is enough offshore wind potential to power every home in the country. A new project called London Array is designed to be the world's largest and intends to power a quarter of all the homes in London. Denmark has eight offshore wind farms and extensive studies finding minimal environmental impacts. The demonstrated success of wind energy in Europe has created ripples across the pond.

Here in the U.S., offshore wind seems like an especially promising renewable energy source because the places with the best wind potential are close to population centers that need the energy; namely the Northeast, and mid-Atlantic Coast, the Great Lakes, and parts of the West Coast. The same 2008 New York Times Magazine story spoke of the Mid-Atlantic Bight, which is the coastal region from Massachusetts to North Carolina where winds are strong and steady. This region also has shallow enough water to utilize existing technology. According to the story, offshore winds could generate enough energy to meet all the power needs of the region. Not surprisingly, the most advanced projects are

proposed for Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Delaware.

In the Pacific Northwest, developers have been exploring possible opportunities to exploit tidal and wave energy, but not offshore wind. One exception is, Grays Harbor Ocean Energy, who are exploring a combined wave-wind energy project in Washington, just offshore from the towns of Ocean Shores and Westport. In California, many of the conditions seem to be favorable for offshore wind—coastal population centers, high energy costs, and strong demand for clean sources. However, the waters are too deep for wind turbines mounted on the seafloor. Technology might help to overcome this barrier. Developers are closely watching Norway where experimental floating offshore wind generators are being tested.

Striking a Balance

Offshore wind power is a renewable energy source that produces no emissions and offers a clean alternative to conventional sources including coal, oil and natural gas. There are studies that indicate marine windmills act as artificial reefs—producing new flora and fauna and attracting difference species of fish. (Danish Institute for Fisheries Research, 2000) The downsides are the impacts to ocean users who could lose access and to shoreline communities worried about the appearance of wind turbines. There is also valid concern for potential impacts to marine mammals and migratory birds. Studies on European wind generators have determined that there is little threat to marine life, but these do not necessarily translate to U.S. projects since the species and migratory pathways are different.

In the U.S., project proponents are recognizing both environmental and human use concerns and are working to address them. A Blue Ribbon Panel on Offshore Wind Energy in New Jersey recommended comprehensive studies on the species in local waters before building any facilities. In Delaware, Bluewater conducted an extensive public involvement effort that included regular town meetings and weekly talk shows. The greatest effort is the Massachusetts Ocean Plan, a State-lead initiative, striving to balance commercial and recreational activities with conservation needs. The draft plan released this past July is out for public review. The plan presents a map of where select ocean uses should occur based on best available science and input from a wide range of ocean users.

Given conventional energy sources are polluting and risky, (i.e. offshore oil drilling, coal-fired/natural gas power plants) strong consideration of offshore wind power is critical for increasing our clean energy portfolio. As with any energy source, there are pros and cons to weigh, but considering the positive shift in public perception of wind, and the documented benefits of this type of energy, offshore wind can certainly be part of the answer as we shift away from an old mindset and look into the future.

Jody Kennedy is Surfrider's Washington Policy Coordinator, John Weber is our Northeast Regional Manager and Stefanie Sekich is our Coastal Campaign Specialist.



THE SURFRIDER HOLIDAY GIFT SET

GIVE THE GIFT THAT GIVES BACK

Looking for the perfect gift for the beach lover in your life? Consider a Surfrider Holiday membership!

Spread the stoke out of the water this holiday season with a Surfrider Foundation holiday package. This year, give our sustainable beanie and tote combination. Your friends and family will be able to keep their heads warm on those chilly mornings with a Surfrider organic cotton beanie and carry their belongings to the beach or home from the market in our reusable organic cotton tote!

The best part is that these gifts come with an annual membership to Surfrider, six issues of *Making Waves* and a sticker to show their support of the Surfrider Foundation.

Give the gift that gives back to our oceans this holiday season.

All for only \$44!!!

Your \$44 gift is 100% tax-deductible and is a wonderful way to share your support of the Surfrider Foundation and their efforts to protect the world's oceans, waves and beaches.

Order yours today! Call 1-800-743-SURF or visit www.surfrider.org/holiday



ONE ENVIRONMENT. ONE SIMPLE WAY TO CARE FOR IT.

Workplace giving campaign season is upon us once again!

The end of the year is the time when many companies promote their workplace giving opportunities. This is your chance to take advantage of one of the simplest and most convenient ways to give to the Surfrider Foundation.

The Surfrider Foundation is a member of Earth Share, a nationwide network of the most respected environmental and conservation organizations. Earth Share partners with employees and employers across the country to support hundreds of environmental groups through efficient and effective payroll

deduction giving and offers a simple way to care for the environment.

Workplace giving is probably the easiest way to make a charitable gift. If your company offers an Earth Share workplace-giving program, you can choose an amount that you wish to have deducted from your paycheck each pay period. These payroll deductions are fully tax deductible and take place automatically.

Think about it... If you get paid every two weeks and choose a payroll deduction of \$25 (That's a half a tank of gas! Or, four large mochas!) from each paycheck, that will translate to

a \$650 donation by the end of the year.

Through Earth Share's workplace giving programs, you can elect to contribute only to the Surfrider Foundation or you can donate to all of the environmental and conservation charities you normally support by designating them in your Earth Share gift.

Federal employees and military personnel can get involved too. Each year, from September to December, the US government offers its employees the chance to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Through this workplace giving fundraising drive, Federal and military employees raise millions of dollars that benefit thousands of charities. Earth Share is a part of many state and municipal government

agencies' giving programs as well.

PLEASE NOTE: As of 2007, CFC codes for all charities have been changed. Surfrider Foundation's new CFC code is 10642. For a listing of new codes for other charities please visit www.earthshare.org

If Earth Share is not offered in your campaign, or if there is no campaign at your workplace, you can help us introduce the program to your employer. To learn more, or to request an Earth Share workplace presentation for your company, please contact **Steve Blank, Surfrider Foundation's Director of Development** at (949) 492-8170.



CHAPTER NEWS

By Ed Mazzarella



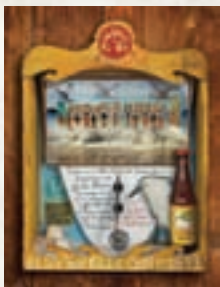
Surfrider member Chris Crow shows his support by toasting to Surfrider!



Isla Vista Chapter Executive Committee members L to R - Adrian Evarts, Nik Edlinger, Michelle Petitfils, Chirs Dickey.

CALIFORNIA

This summer our **South Orange County Chapter** intern Charlene Cologne worked with Surfrider Foundation Headquarters to conduct outreach about the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). The MLPA is a law that requires the state to establish a “network” of marine protected areas in near-shore waters from Oregon to the Mexican border to improve marine habitat and fish populations. Charlene spent the summer surveying local communities to get opinions on where people want Marine Protected Areas. She interviewed fishermen, environmentalists, surfers, recreationalists, divers, and anyone who wanted to share their opinions about the MLPA. In total, she interviewed over 150 people at several beaches, fishing piers, community events, recreational shops, surf competitions and even a fishing derby. Talk about grassroots! This fall, Surfrider Headquarters is hosting community forums along the coast in Southern California to discuss the proposed maps with Surfrider supporters.



Our South Orange County Chapter also held a mid-summer movie under the stars, “A Fly in the Champagne,” the documentary about the Slater/Irons rivalry. New Belgium Brewing (NBB) Company generously hosted the event at San Clemente State Park’s Historic Cottage and featured their seasonal Skinny Dip brew as well as Fat Tire beers on tap. The event was held in conjunction with the NBB Skinny Dip “Save our Rivers” campaign featuring Trestles, and the venue was hosted by the San Onofre Foundation.

The **Isla Vista Chapter** consists of UC Santa Barbara students and Santa Barbara City College students who love the beach and want to protect it. The Chapter held their annual “Concert for the

Coast” this past spring which raised \$500 for the Naples Coalition. They’re also starting up a Rise Above Plastics Campaign.

This summer, the California Coastal Commission denied the Santa Barbara County’s proposed groin project at Goleta Beach with a resounding 9-1 vote. The opposition was led by the **Santa Barbara Chapter** with legal support from the Environmental Defense Center. The groin would have caused down coast erosion and required ongoing dredging off Goleta Beach, causing beach and park closures, as well as air and water pollution.

On International Surfing Day the **Ventura Chapter** premiered the film “Watershed Revolution” by filmmaker Rich Reid. The documentary features the Ventura River watershed and several local citizens fighting to restore and preserve it, including the chapter’s Environmental Director Paul Jenkin. The film highlights the unique challenges faced by a river that is the sole source of water for the community. Following the premier the Chapter hosted a celebration including a silent auction and benefit concert headlined by John Cruz.



L to R, front row Vice Chair Sean Toren, Chair Vince Kinsch, John Cruz, EC Cynthia Hartley, EC John Wingate, Enviro Director Paul Jenkin and wife Alisa



L to R – Malibu Carl and Joel Tudor

Would you consider eating at a restaurant that got an “F” rating? Surfrider Beach frequently scores an “F” rating for failing to meet water quality standards. Fortunately, the **West LA/Malibu Chapter** is working hard to increase public demand for clean water in Malibu. Locals and visitors alike are showing their support by signing the Clean Water At The Bu petition, rockin’ the Chapter’s T’s, and slapping stickers on their cars. It’s time for the City of Malibu to come up with a comprehensive solution for storm water and wastewater treatment and clean up Surfrider Beach once and for all.

The 7th Annual Doo Dah surf contest raised over \$2,300 for the **West LA/Malibu Chapter**. Words really can’t describe this event—it’s best to watch the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIGuL9Q31XU>

The **Long Beach Chapter’s** “Sink the Breakwater, Restore the Shore!” campaign made headway when the City of Long Beach completed their unprecedented city-sponsored reconnaissance study on July 27, 2009. The study still requires \$30,000 in federal funding to be reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The day of surfing Long Beach is closer than ever!

The **Huntington Beach/Seal Beach Chapter** continues to educate, inform and build membership. Summer events included a Beach clean-up and Mason Jennings concert hosted by Barefoot Wine with more than 500 participants; book signing with Stuart Coleman and Shaun Tomson; the best attended International Surfing Day to date; member mixer with Surflife.com as a special guest; local beach clean-ups with hundreds participating; and the biggest surf conditions in 10 years at the U.S. Open.

At a small gallery called La Perla in Shell Beach, members of the community were treated to a stunning visual of underwater sea life along the Central Coast. Our **San Luis Bay Chapter** and Sierra Club paired up to sponsor **Terry Lilley**, a local biologist, to show some of his many hours of underwater footage. This educational event showed the public what’s underneath the water and in the near shore environment and gave them impetus to protect it. Surfrider Foundation and Sierra Club are currently working towards extending Sanctuary protection from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary’s boundary, currently at Point Sal, all the way south to Point Conception. For more on this please visit: <http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/lucian/2009/06June.pdf>

Humboldt Chapter

Under the leadership of **Chapter Chair, Jennifer Savage**, our **Humboldt Chapter** had a rebirthing of sorts. The Humboldt



Kassia Meador

ocean-loving community has been very supportive. Membership is up by 40 percent and funds have quadrupled. In return, the reconstituted Chapter has pursued—and is pursuing—a number of projects. One concern that surfaced immediately referenced outdated dock floats washing up on North Coast beaches. The blocks, a combination of concrete, Styrofoam and fiberglass, not only create a navigational hazard in the water, but an environmental one as they deteriorate along the waveslope. Due to pressure from the Humboldt Chapter, the Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District has removed several of the blocks and plans to remove the remaining ones as well.

In addition, the Chapter hosted an informational public forum on wave energy development in response to community interest and concern over PG&E’s proposed WaveConnect projects off northern California. Presenters included PG&E Representative Ian Caliendo, FERC’s Jim Hastreiter, HT Harvey Ecologist Peter Nelson and Surfrider Foundation’s **Pete Stauffer**. Humboldt State University Professor of Economics Steve Hackett joined the panel for a question-and-answer session following the presentations. Over 70 members of the community including elected officials, environmental professionals, surfers, and fishermen attended, as well as members of the **Mendocino Chapter** who trekked up in support. Other projects include a shower/surf rack structure at Moonstone, Humboldt’s most heavily used beach. This would benefit not only surfers, but the folks who recreate along Little River and the surrounding area. Unfortunately, that river and others along the Trinidad stretch, have suffered from contamination. One of the Chapter’s major goals is to establish a Water Quality Lab by the end of 2009. People, lab space and some funding is already in place—the Chapter plans to use funds raised during International Surfing Day toward that specific project.

Overall, the Humboldt Chapter is beyond stoked at all the support and success so far—and enthused about the future! Plenty of information can be found on the Chapter’s blog at <http://surfriderhumboldt.wordpress.com>.



Are you hungry for more Surfrider Foundation news? Well then check out our weekly e-news “Soup.” It’s filled to the brim with hot Surfrider-, environmental- and ocean-related news. Just enter your e-mail address and zip code on our home page (in the upper left-hand corner): www.surfrider.org

THE NEIL CUMMINS ECO-HAWKS BUILD THE GIANT PLASTIC WAVE

By Michelle Slade

The Eco-Hawks are a group of 3rd & 4th graders from Neil Cummins School (Corte Madera), who work on environmental projects with science teacher Ann Brown. In May and early June, the Eco-Hawks collected recyclable plastic items to help build a plastic wave for a June 6 World Ocean Day celebration with the Marin County Chapter.

Our **Marin County Chapter** volunteers built the framework, and tried not to use plastic in its construction, using recycled rope and twine to lash the plastic to the wave. Next time you are in a store, note how few alternatives there are to buying plastic.

As they worked, the kids chatted about what they like to do when they go to the beach, how they are beginning to see many dead sea birds on their beaches, and the plight of other sea creatures such as turtles who are found entangled in plastic, unable to swim or forage for food.

The kids acknowledged the impact of seeing this much plastic on one small area, comprehending that what they had collected was a relatively small amount in the big picture. Said one kid, "Imagine if all the kids at Neil Cummins had also collected plastic just how much there would be." A whole lot of plastic junk that otherwise may have made its way into our oceans.



Our **San Francisco Chapter** and Plastic Committee are proud to welcome and partner with Adventure Ecology's Plastiki Project as they build a revolutionary boat in San Francisco. The boat is called the "Plastiki" and is named after the Kon-tiki, the epic Pacific crossing in 1947. David de Rothschild heads an ambitious project asking society to re-think plastic usage. He and his team are building a boat from recycled plastic bottles and sailing it through the Pacific Gyre or Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

As they build the boat, David and his team are discovering new, smarter ways to do everything. This includes waste treatment, growing food and generating energy. All their interesting developments are on display at the Plastiki Mission Control center at Fisherman's Wharf along with Surfrider Foundation educational displays about plastic and beaches.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Our **Washington Chapters** took part in Surfing and Traditions, which is in its sixth year and was celebrated again this summer. The event kicked off with the annual kids camp where area surfers (this year from Oregon, Washington, and Canada) volunteered to get in the water with the kids from the Quileute Tribe and nearby Forks. Between the two sessions that day there were over 35 kids in the water learning to surf, body board, and respect the ocean. A huge thank you goes out to the **Sperry Family** for their continued support and storage of all the donated gear that gets used each year to get these kids stoked and in the water. On Sunday, volunteers hit the beach bright and early collecting over 100 bags of trash from the prior evening's fireworks display. The weekend's festivities ended with the annual surf competition. This year took a more laid-back grassroots approach with heats titled "Liquid Shredder" (think ripping surfers on 6-8' foam boards clowning it up) and "Expression Session," where locals **Greg Urata** won for Best Maneuver and **Jeremy Botkin** won for Best Wave.

Congratulations to the city of Edmonds for their Plastic Bag Ban. Final vote for written ordinance was 5-1 in favor on July 28th. Councilman Strom Peterson championed the ban. Seattle volunteers **Robin Brower** and **Alison Bonar** spoke on behalf of Surfrider Foundation at various meetings.

Our **Portland Chapter's** Ban the Bag Campaign has been in full swing through the summer with Mayor Sam Adams appointing a reusable bag task force and vowing at one of the Chapter's recent events to pass a public policy on the pesky plastics! Building coalition partners, outreach to businesses, neighborhood associations, city council members/testimony, branding and gaining greater exposure with educational displays in Patagonia and the Lizard Lounge, the campaign's public profile has greatly expanded. The Chapter has given away over 3,000 reusable bags with the campaign logo, done extensive door-to-door outreach, tabling and canvassing summer fairs and festivals, and put on several art shows in partnership with Leave No Plastic Behind and Wend Magazine, in addition to a wealth of online social networking efforts. Great work and congratulations go out to all Chapter leaders, volunteers and special thanks to **Staj Pace** for all her leadership in outreach efforts.

Our **Newport Chapter** is gaining position for improving monitoring for the Georgia Pacific Pulp Mill in Toledo. The City of Newport unanimously motioned in support of a monitoring plan through a license agreement for the effluent lines late this summer. The agreement came after four months of the Newport Mayor's Task Force deliberations with an increased annual fee and a new condition allocating fee dollars for ongoing monitoring of the ocean waters. A landmark in the campaign, the Chapter is now working on supporting the city-appointed monitoring task force with scientific recommendations through a joint Oregon State University research project. The summer was ripe for events as the Chapter helped launch and organize the Otter Rock N' Roll Youth Surf Contest, turned South Beach and Lincoln City Barefoot friendly for the Barefoot Wine Beach Rescue Project and karaoke afterparty, "Out There" premiere and over a dozen camp and group Respect the Beach projects from cleanups to water quality lab training.

Our **Siuslaw Chapter** in Florence ramped up capacity this summer adopting new programs and launching new successful events! First off was the wildly successful "Foam Fest!" Inspired by the Portland Chapter's Pint Night events, the Chapter launched their own version raising funds and awareness. Major thanks to Wakonda Brewery, Ninkasi Brewery, Bay Street Grille and event organizer



Clean up on the Anacostia Riverbank.

Brittany Getz. The event raised funds and awareness to launch the first annual Adopt-a-River Program cleanup organized by **Melissa Buckwald.** The Chapter hosted the cleanup along the Siuslaw River in partnership with the Siuslaw Watershed Council, SOLV and Siuslaw Waste and Disposal. Karma points to all the volunteers who helped make this happen. Boats, kayaks, boards, swimmers and divers helped pull in just over 1,000 pounds of trash from the river and banks in just over three hours.

EAST COAST

Thanks in a large part to our **DC Chapter**, “The Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act” was approved by the DC City Council in June. The vote was unanimous and starting January 1, 2010, virtually all retailers that sell food in the District will charge 5 cents for each plastic or paper bag they distribute. One to two cents of the fee will return to the retailer, and the remainder will go into an Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Fund to help restore one of the most polluted rivers in the country. The fund will also pay for reusable bags and an educational campaign for low-income, elderly, and other needy residents. The bill also establishes a new special license plate (the first non-standard license plate in the city) and other voluntary revenue streams to keep the fund solvent. The city’s CFO estimates that the fee will reduce demand for bags by 90 percent in five years.

Our DC Chapter led the way on gaining public support for the bill, coordinating a postcard campaign to collect signatures at grocery stores and community events, and kept an army of volunteers at the ready to answer questions and combat false information spread on blogs, news articles, and other online news sources.

Chapter Chair, Julie Lawson also testified at the public hearing, met with several council members and their staff, and even designed the coalition’s logo. Councilman Tommy Wells, who drafted the legislation (and who was also a special guest at the Chapter’s International Surfing Day), announced that Safeway would donate 10,000 reusable bags to distribute to low-income families in the city.

Our **Rhode Island Chapter** held an outreach event in Newport at Easton’s Beach where they signed up 35 new members in one day! Most noteworthy is that many of the new members came from the windsurfing and kite-surfing communities since the Chapter is trying to address beach access for all non-motorized recreation.



Our NYC Chapter used International Surfing Day to advance their biggest campaign, stopping LNG facilities in NY waters.

Our **NYC Chapter** used International Surfing Day to advance their biggest campaign, stopping LNG facilities in New York waters. They held a press conference and rally on the boardwalk in Rockaway with almost 50 attendees including New York City Councilman Eric Ulrich, and Assemblywoman Audrey Pheffer. Attendees then paddled out and held up a giant banner reading “NO LNG.” The banner was made by Chapter member **Andrea Matura** and some of her skilled friends in the needle-trades.

TEXAS

On the last day of the 81st Texas Legislature in an 11th hour move, Representative Mike Hamilton, on behalf of Representative Wayne Christian introduced an amendment to HB770 that essentially gutted the Texas Open Beaches Act. HB770 is a bill that would have allowed Texas property owners to continue claiming homestead tax exemptions for up to two years on a home that was lost in a hurricane, and made Texas Chambers of Commerce exempt from paying property taxes. The Christian Amendment, allows Christian and a few other property owners on Bolivar Peninsula to rebuild their lost homes on what has become a public beach in the wake of Hurricane Ike. A bill that could have benefited victims of a Texas Gulf Coast hurricane now victimizes all 24 million Texans by taking away their right to access and use of the public beach on Bolivar. It also sets a precedent for similar legislation to be written for the entire coast in the wake of an erosional event. Because of the way in which this amendment was introduced, HB770 never saw a committee hearing, public testimony or input before going to Texas Governor Perry’s desk. Perry had to take action on the bill within 21 days or it would become law under the Texas Constitution regardless if Perry signed it or not.

The four Texas Chapters of the Surfrider Foundation (**Texas Upper Coast, Coastal Bend, South Texas and Central Texas**) actively opposed this amendment along with Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson who was reported by the Houston Chronicle as saying that the Legislature would have to impeach him if the lawmakers wanted the provision enforced. Surfrider Foundation started statewide then nationwide campaigns for the veto of HB770 that included engaging coastal Representatives and



Texas beaches are vulnerable to increased coastal erosion due to hurricanes (the aftermath of which often times changes property lines).

Senators, writing op-ed articles, sending Action Alert e-mails, phone calls and faxes asking Governor Perry to veto the bill. Despite this public outcry, Governor Perry did nothing. He let HB770 quietly become law on June 22. He did not veto it, nor did he sign it so the Texas Chapters will continue to fight the legality and constitutionality of this law.

GREAT LAKES

For the first time, surfing Chicagoans can legally hang-10 in Lake Michigan, thanks to our **Lake Michigan Chapter**. After a 9-month grassroots campaign that included letters, e-mails, phone calls and meetings, the Chicago Park District opened four of its beaches to surfing. **Vince Deur**, (who along with **Ingrid Lindfors**, founded the Lake Michigan Chapter in 2007), said Park District Superintendent Timothy Mitchell would allow surfing between Labor Day and Memorial Day. Our Chapter and the Park District are also looking into allowing surfing at the 41st Street Beach all year, beginning perhaps as early as Memorial Day weekend, Deur said. Jessica Maxey-Faulkner, a Park District spokeswoman said in a statement, "We are excited about the possibility of bringing a new recreation option to Chicagoans." Surfers have been hitting Lake Michigan's waves for years—except in Chicago, where it had been outlawed.

"There has been a lot of resistance to surfing in Chicago, going back more than 20 years," said Deur, a Grand Rapids, Mich., filmmaker and Chapter Vice-Chair whose most recent film, "Unsalted," is about surfing the Great Lakes. "We are taking baby steps in the process and hope to get more beaches in the future.

"Now that we have a toe in the water, so to speak, we want to do it right and keep a good thing going," he said. "Surfing is not a crime."

This intrepid Great Lakes Surfer braves the water sans wettie.



INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER NEWS

Vancouver Chapter Gears UP!

When people think of surfing the West Coast they generally think of Oregon or California. People often envision warm water, perfect lines and crowded waves along with even more crowded beaches. However, in the Pacific Northwest with cold water, jaw-dropping mountain ranges, and countless beaches you find a different breed of surfers donning warmer gear and riding both the ocean waves and light mountain powder. This is also home to the Surfrider Foundation's **Vancouver Chapter**.

This year kicked off with the addition of four new executives to the Surfrider Vancouver team; **Maya Stano, Susan Levert, Maria Ruiz-Isaac and Rachelle Poitras**. With the leadership of **Chapter Chair, Haley Haggerstone**, the team's diverse interests and talents have been harnessed and tapped making 2009 a very memorable year!

In late March, the team set out to bring the community together by participating in Surfrider Europe's **Oceans Initiative Beach Cleanup**. Hurley sponsored the event by providing food and hot chocolate to the enthusiastic but cold volunteers. The result was outstanding; by the end of the day 700 pounds of garbage had been excavated from the seemingly clean Acadia Beach in Pacific Spirit Park.

The momentum picked up from that point on to what became two months of back-to-back events. May kicked off with the **Fingerling Festival** in Port Moody, which was centered around the release of baby Chum salmon into the Noos River. This was followed by a video premiere for "A Fly in the Champagne" sponsored by Billabong and Quiksilver at Tunnel Multi-Lounge. Next, six Surfrider Vancouver volunteers headed down to Westport, WA in support of the **Clean Water Classic** surf competition. Then the following weekend was the **Rip Curl Stew** in Tofino, BC where Surfrider with the help of Shelter Restaurant and Long Beach Lodge acted as the sole food vendor on Cox Bay.

The busy month of May did not slow the Chapter down one bit. At the beginning of June, the Chapter helped celebrate the opening of the Billabong Store in Vancouver with a fashion show and video premiere

With the help of both the local community and the surf/snow industry, all this hard work has been paying off as more and more awareness is being created around the Surfrider Foundation mission. The local membership base is growing steadily, which in turn is making the Chapter stronger. This year also marked the launch of the Chapter's **Rise Above Plastics** campaign. The campaign is focused on persuading the City of Vancouver to ban plastic bags. If they can persuade British Columbia's largest city to enact the ban, they hope it'll open the door for the other towns and cities in the province to follow! They are currently working with a number of other local NGOs to produce a report describing the inherent dangers of plastic bags, plastic alternatives and legislative options for the municipality to explore. This report will be uploaded on the Chapter's Web site when it is complete in Fall 2009.

For more information check out www.surfridervancouver.org

The new Executive Committee of Surfrider Foundation Canada





THE POWER OF ONE:

Gina Francisco

By Bill Rosenblatt

"The ocean saturates all that I am. It is in my dreams, in my thoughts and fantasies, in my blood...I was born with a condition, passed on from my father, called Surf Stoke... my fascination and respect for the ocean drove me to involve myself in it as much as possible." These words come from the essay Gina Francisco wrote as an applicant for the Jersey Shore Chapter's Stockdale Scholarship. With those words, an A average, and some pretty killer recommendations, if you guessed she won, you were right! No doubt this young woman spoke of the feelings that many in Surfrider share.

Gina is a 19-year-old sophomore at Rutgers University with a double major in biology and marine science. She hopes some day to go to medical school and then look into the ocean to help find new cures and medicines. Like many, Gina has always been able to walk, skateboard, or ride her bike to the beach to surf, walk, contemplate or just hang out with her friends. She's been surfing since she was 9 years old, snorkels at the Marine Reserve in Rincón, Puerto Rico whenever she can, and has recently taken to stand-up paddleboarding. She likes the perspective, especially paddling over the reef at Tres Palmas. For the past 17 years she has rarely missed a beach clean up in Loch Arbour, N.J. and whenever possible, during the past three years, she has also become a regular helping clean beaches in Rincón, where her family has a second home. "I don't just wait for official beach clean up days," Gina told me. "I clean up at the beach every day."

Gina is a member of the Jersey Shore Chapter, but admits that she has not been super active. She has found other onramps using her talents as an artist and designer. Gina is a member of the Rutgers University Surf Club and her winning murals adorn the walls at her dorm Nicholas Hall. With part of the \$2,000 winning prize she created an ocean wave themed t-shirt that was available to all in her dorm. In one of her most exciting achievements to-date Gina's design was selected as the winner of a contest sponsored by Ando and Friends

Andy Davis. The design, stitched totally by hand, depicts a wave, a surfer, and a girl. She hopes to use her new-found notoriety to develop a design line for clothing that inspires and educates people about the plight of our oceans, beaches, and waves.

Ask this young woman about the things she sees as the biggest threats for our future and she will wax on eloquently about "the human threat and the influences of people not being mindful of the impact of their behaviors, not thinking long-term." Gina is doing her part to help. She stopped using any single-use plastic bottle years ago, urged her mom to switch to fabric shopping bags, uses organic products, and generally tries to consume less. She even convinced her dad to stop using pesticides in the big family vegetable and fruit garden. "I think that my generation sees the problems and are more and more willing to change our behavior" Gina said with a smile. "It's not always easy."

Like every surfer, Gina has been stoked taking advantage of an exceptionally good run of surf at her home break on a brand new 6'0" that she had a hand in designing.

One person with passion and dedication using their skills to impact the world we live in.

Whether you are a Chapter activist, a surfer, a beach lover, or an artist... if one person changes what they do and gets one other to change we'll have a real start.

Bill Rosenblatt is the former Chairman of Surfrider Foundation's Board of Directors



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